MEANS ADOPTED TO BUILD ST. PETER'S IN ROME.

PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS.

A SHORT time ago we gave a translation of the brief by which Leo X appointed Raffaelle architect of the Roman cathedral.* The *Engineer's Journal* for the current month contains the following brief, from the same pope, to facilitate the provision of materials for the same work, and prevent the destruction of ancient monuments:—

"TO RAFFAELLE URBINATE.

As it is most necessary for the construction of the Roman temple of the Prince of Apostles, that stone and marble, of which we ought to have an abundant supply, should be rather procured at home, than be conveyed from abroad; and as it has been ascertained that the ruins of Rome contain a great quantity of these materials, and that all persons who, either in Rome or even in the neighbourhood, intend to build, do appropriate the same to their own use; I make you, whom I use as the master of this said temple, the overseer of all the marbles and stones which, henceforth, may come to light at Rome, or at a distance of ten thousand paces therefrom—for this reason, that you shall purchase for me those which may be proper for the edification of this temple. Therefore, I command all people, middle, highest, lowest, that wherever they shall, hereafter, dig out marbles or other stones, of any kind, within the space assigned by me, that they shall acquaint you, the overseer, forthwith, of the nature or kind of every thing so discovered or excavated. And also, that whoever shall not do so within three days from the time of such discovery, be be fined from 100 to 300 gold coins, as shall appear to you fit. And, moreover, as I have been informed, that much of ancient marble and stone, engraven with inscriptions and other monuments, which monuments often bear some exquisite stamp of art, and ought to be preserved for the cultivation of literature and the improvement of the Roman tongue, are vilely cut up by the marble-workers as building material, and that thus the inscriptions are destroyed, I command all persons who exercise the trade of cutting marble and other stones, that, without your orders or permission, they may not dare to cut or work any inscribed stone,—applying the same fine, as aforesaid, to all who may act otherwise than I command.—Given this sixt Cal. of September. Year three. Rome."

GERMAN KNIGHT-CASTLES (RITTENBURGEN).

AMONGST the restorations (*re-habilitations!*) recently made, the *Burg* Lichtenstein, near Reutlingen, re-erected by order and under the care of Count William of Würtemberg claims especial note. Above the village of Honau, on a rock 800 feet high, and whose peak rises obelisk-like in the air, Lichtenstein rises free in the skies, its towers being 160 feet high. That same mind, which imparted to this *Burg* its external shape, *picturesque* on all sides, with its walls, and pinnacles, and balconies, and gables, and collars, and the manifold tiers of stories—has arranged also the inside with poetic feeling, so much so, that the claims, as well of sentimentality, as those of a sociable life, then almost constantly turned for festivity, are equally attended to. There is the entrance hall with its fine sculptures, and cheerful and admonitory inscriptions; the hall of armour, with its seats cut in the main rock of the foundation—the chapel with its mysterious dim; the more homely chase and banqueting-hall (*Jagd und Trink-Stube*), where every utensil reminds of the manly sportiveness and hilarity of a vigorous ancestry! The dwelling-rooms exhibit a vast amount of German mediæval art, or modern science—and the platform of the tower ranges over a sublime view of the Alps, from the Jungfrau to the Zugspitz—views sublime, denied to us northern Cimmerians. Of the ancient pictures preserved at Lichtenstein much might be said—but suffice to redeem from oblivion an old Swabian master, older even than Zeitblom, and whose works seem to have influenced that worthy *picturer*. His forms are very free, his technicism exceedingly perfect, both pointing (as many other works of old German school) to that of the Flanders Eycks.

Near Hechingen, lays Hohenzollern—the cradle of the ancestors of Frederick the Great—yet in its state of grandeose ruination, but the present king has given orders to recall it to pristine beauty.

* Vol. IV., p. 494.

New Books.

Punctuation Reduced to a System. By WILLIAM DAY. Ollivier, Pall Mall. 1847.

A VERY useful little book, and we recommend it to all our readers. Correct punctuation is of great importance, even in the business of every-day life; the want of it often produces annoyance and trouble. For example, "The contract made for lighting the town of Liverpool, during the year 1819, was thrown void by the misplacing of a comma in the advertisements; thus: 'The lamps at present are about 4050, and have in general two spouts each, composed of not less than twenty threads of cotton.' The contractor would have proceeded to furnish each lamp with the said twenty threads; but this being but half the usual quantity, the commissioners discovered that the difference arose from the *comma following*, instead of *preceding*, the word *each*. The parties agreed to annul the contract, and a new one was ordered."

"That the above-named advertisement," says Mr. Day, "was drawn up by the solicitor of the Liverpool commissioners, there is little doubt. It would, therefore, not be punctuated at all, according to the custom of the legal profession. But the printer was not permitted to follow so bad an example. *He* was expected to supply the necessary points, that the notice might appear before the public in a readable state."

He then, with justice, remarks, "*Why* the gentlemen of the legal profession, who take such pains to make their meanings clear, and who employ such a multiplicity of words to effect their object, should deem *pointing* unnecessary, it is difficult to explain. Misconceptions are likely to arise in *all* kinds of composition, when written in a language so equivocal as the English; but, if the aid of points is required in any one kind *more* than in another, it is surely called for in all forms of law. The longest and most tautological writings stand in the greatest need of points. The original copy of a long act of parliament, or a verbose deed of conveyance, or a marriage settlement, engrossed upon many skins of parchment, without a point from the beginning to the end, may be almost unintelligible to a common reader; as nearly so, indeed, as if penned in an unknown tongue. If points were used in such documents, they might be *considerably abridged*, to the manifest advantage of those who pay for them; for, as Mr. Booth tells us, "The conveyancers account for the tautologies which abound in legal deeds, by reason of their being written wholly without points."

Memoirs of Benvenuto Cellini, written by himself, containing a variety of Information respecting the Arts, and the History, of the Sixteenth Century. Translated by THOMAS ROSCOE. H. G. Bohn, York street, Covent Garden. 1847.

A MORE curious and vivid piece of autobiography than that of Benvenuto Cellini was never written. Engaged for Francis I., Charles V., Pope Clement VII., and Duke Cosmo of Florence; and intimate with Michael Angelo, Titian, Giulio Romano, and the other giants who lived at the beginning of the sixteenth century, he brings close before us in his graphic self-willed style (not always to their advantage, by the way, in point of morals), those whom we have long contemplated at a distance and in mist. Though through his self-confident and irritable disposition, he appears to have been constantly engaged in squabbles, and often offended his best friends, admiration of his talents as an artist, and of the real good that was in him as a man, kept them still about him, and enabled him to escape from many difficulties in which his own acts had involved him.

Mr. Bohn has acted wisely in selecting this work for his marvellously cheap "Standard Library:" it can scarcely fail to have a large sale. We may mention, for the advantage of those who are not aware of it, that there are many admirable specimens of the wonderful skill of Cellini, as a worker in metal, in the gold closet at Windsor Castle.

Correspondence.

WOOD AND IRON BOND.

SIR,—From perusing your leading article of last week, I am induced to offer a few observations upon the subject of wood and iron bond. Having had great experience in practical matters, you will allow me to state that I have always found wood bond alone preferable to either iron hooping, or iron hooping and occasional courses of brick in cement. It is obvious, that iron hooping, of itself, will not prevent irregular settlements, because, by the elasticity of the iron, it will bend to suit such settlements, and, therefore, is of little use without the addition of some other means to counteract that elasticity; for which purpose the laying of courses of brick in cement has been resorted to, and even then, in many instances, I have known it to fail.

If wood bond be thoroughly well tempered and seasoned before using, it will answer in every way the purpose desired, namely, the securing the building from irregular settlements. Of course, I conclude that there has been a thorough good foundation laid before commencing the building, for without that necessary precaution, it is absurd to talk about securement from settling.

I cannot close these remarks without adverting to the present Metropolitan Buildings Act, which, by prohibiting the use of wood bond or plate, has been the cause of so many failures. From the multiplicity of cases which have come under my own observation, I am led to believe, that nearly two-thirds of the buildings erected since the 1st of January, 1845, are badly constructed. I refer chiefly to the private houses in the suburbs of the metropolis, in which I have seen the floor joists with their ends just lodged on a projecting piece of thin stone (hardly worth calling a template), and I am confident that very many of them will not stand twenty years.

I am, Sir, &c., A BUILDER.

26th January, 1847.

MODE OF SELECTING A SURVEYOR FOR LIVERPOOL.

SIR,—I can confirm the statement made in your last number, as to the unfairness with which the election of surveyor for the Borough of Liverpool has been conducted, having received a letter (some days previously to the publication of the number of your journal alluded to), from a gentlemen residing in Manchester, stating, that out of the sixty-three candidates, "five had been *selected*, but that they were all put aside to make room for some one recommended by Mr. Hartley, but who was too diffident to make the application in the usual way." Now, Sir, I think it too bad for the corporation of Liverpool to trifle thus with the public, by advertising for parties to send in testimonials, and when some three-score of gentlemen take the trouble to procure testimonials from their friends, they are all to be set aside for some one "too diffident" to make the application, and who probably had no testimonials, but only a recommendation from Mr. Hartley.

I, for one, have received testimonials from gentlemen standing very high in the profession, and feel that it is in a certain measure an imputation on those who give testimonials, as well as the candidates themselves, to be set aside so easily.

I inclose my card, and shall be happy to produce the testimonials alluded to if the committee will have the courtsey to return them.

I beg to subscribe myself

ONE OF THE CANDIDATES.

29th Jan. 1847.

ARCHITECTURAL COMPETITORS.

SIR,—Permit me to say a few words on the subject which appeared in your last number under the head of "Redress for Competitors." The architect does not sufficiently regard his profession. The solicitor and the physician demand their fees for what they do, and why should not the architect be paid according to

To learn how to use OCR and PDF Compression visit our website